



News & Updates

December 2025 | Volume 16 - Number 10

Upcoming Activities

December
Annual Drive

April
Toiletry Drive

May
Awareness Walk

About Us
Spreading Hope
Through
Psychosocial
Support SM

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Support
Help Make The
Miracles Possible

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CFC #59853

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Making the Season Bright

We wish you a happy holiday season and the best of health and happiness in 2026. You play a vital role in our success and help to make the Mattie Miracles possible. We appreciate your continued contributions, your loyalty to the Foundation, and your commitment to our psychosocial mission. **Thanks to you we celebrated our 16th anniversary and we remain the only national non-profit, dedicated to psychosocial awareness, advocacy, support, and research of childhood cancer.**

Over the last 16 years, together we have:

1. Raised over \$1.8M to fund our psychosocial programs
2. Supported 38,000 children with cancer
3. Funded 6 child life specialists
4. Awarded \$200,000 in psychosocial innovative research grants
5. Published the first evidence based Psychosocial Standards of Care
6. Sponsored the publication of the Matrix and Guidelines to help implement the Psychosocial Standards of Care
7. Awarded 54 M&M Wishes
8. Funded 14 Therapy Support Grants
9. Operated five Snack & Item Carts at local hospitals

**It's not just about
the medicine!SM**



**16 Years of
Service
Video**

10. Donated millions of pieces of candy and toiletry items to families
11. Introduced House Resolution 262
12. Added Psychosocial Language to the STAR Act (signed into law June 2018)

Please contribute to our Annual Drive. Your **tax-deductible donations** make the Mattie Miracles possible.

Click on the gift to donate now!



Spreading Hope Through Psychosocial Support.

SM

**Making Wishes
Come True**



In 2021, we established the M&M (Margy & Mattie) Wishes program in memory of our board member, Margy Jost. This program provides grants up to \$1,000 to support a fun family activity, trip, or a wish list item for a child with cancer. **This month, we awarded our 53rd M&M Wish to Sebastian, a five year old with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.**

At Sebastian's tender age, medications, hospitalizations, and frequent procedures are confusing and upsetting. Yet through all of this, his family reports that he has never lost his wonderful smile and has shown incredible strength throughout his cancer journey. Sebastian wanted to go to Branson, MO to experience Silver Dollar City, Christmas

lights, the Polar Express Train, and the Dolly Stampede. **Mattie Miracle is honored to provide Sebastian and his family moments of fun, relaxation, and normalcy during the holiday season.**

Reflections from Sebastian's family:

We had an amazing time in Branson, MO. We were able to do the Polar Express and the Dolly Stampede. Thank you again for making this happen. Sebastian and our family had an amazing time and made great memories.



Child Life Corner with Adina Levitan, CCLS

Uplifting Children during the Holidays

Holidays are often synonymous with family and tradition. Whether you celebrate Kwanzaa, Christmas, Hanukkah, or another holiday, this time of year brings up vivid imagery of decorations, delicious foods and nostalgic memories. **However, for children facing cancer, this time of year may bring up more feelings of fear, anxiety, stress, and sadness.**

Parents and caregivers of a child with cancer often feel a tightness in their chests as the holidays get closer. Asking themselves..... Will we be home for the holidays? What if my child spikes a fever and we must rush to the hospital urgently? How will we afford gifts or decorations, when bills have been piling up? Will we be able to spend time with family without my child getting sick? **The unknown that accompanies having a child with cancer becomes murkier and more painful as the holidays approach.**

Child life specialists understand this sadness and anticipate how to help families celebrate the holidays with sensitivity, compassion, and creativity. Does your child love holiday decorations? We will be sure to provide those. Are you concerned about affording gifts or having time to purchase them? We will plan an entire "store" where you can "shop" for your child and their siblings (and by shop, I, of course mean that these are gifted to families at no cost!) Through the kindness of community members, nonprofit organizations, thankful families, and corporate giving, child life programs overflow with toys, crafts, stuffies and so much more that families can shop for the holidays. **It never ceases to amaze and humble me to see the joy and gratitude families experience when they can shop from the child life holiday store with dignity.**

Child life specialists also recognize the magic of Christmas morning to many families. Instead of presents under the tree and cozy pajamas on the couch, **families may spend Christmas in the hospital sleeping to the noise of beeping IV machines and the discomfort of a hospital bed. This is where child life specialists step in to deliver gifts and presents from Santa to each**

Throughout the holidays, child life specialists find meaningful, familiar and fun ways to help families celebrate. While every child life program plans differently, the core goal is the same: to continue to support and uplift children and families facing cancer.

8. Awarded **19 M&M Wishes**, ranging from \$300 to \$1,000. These grants support a fun family activity, trip, or a wish list item for a child with cancer.
9. Funded **9 therapy support grants** for children with cancer. Each \$1,000 grant covered the cost of psychological services within the community.
10. Coordinated **two annual community item drives** (candy, snacks, and toiletries) to help stock our hospital Snack & Item carts.



DONATE...

**AND MAKE A
DIFFERENCE...**

We Love Our Supporters

Thank you for standing behind our mission to assist children with cancer and their families for 16 years. Please make a **tax-deductible contribution** today.

Your contribution will help us meet the psychosocial needs of children with cancer and their families, as well as implement the Psychosocial Standards of Care, so that every child with cancer has access to optimal psychological and social support.

**Best wishes this holiday season and
THANK YOU for your continued support!**



Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation
is a GuideStar PLATINUM
Participant Charity



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